

**State of California  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**TO:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
750 Hearst Castle Rd  
San Simeon, CA 93452

**PROJECT TITLE:** Construction Camp Tree Rehabilitation

**LOCATION:** Hearst San Simeon State Historic Monument

**COUNTY:** San Luis Obispo County

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:**

Remove 13 non-native, Italian stone pines and one dead oak tree on the monument's south facing hill in order to assist native oak tree restoration efforts, preserve historic viewsheds, reduce fuel loads, and to preserve and re-establish the cultural landscape in accordance with the Landscape Preservation Maintenance Plan (LPMP). Work will:

- **Removal of deadwood**  
Remove the dead oak tree adjacent to the PG&E vault, north of the greenhouse access road in order to reduce fuel load.
- **Non-historic tree removal**  
Remove up to 13 non-native, Italian stone pines to improve the health of the adjacent, native, coast live oaks and re-establish the historic viewshed. 25 Italian stone pines will be retained.
- **Tree replacement**  
In addition to the above actions, prune and thin to improve the conditions of the hundreds of small coast live oak seedlings present under the canopy and to develop a nursery or replacement source of native trees for the monument.

Work will be performed by a combination of State Park staff and contracted tree surgeons using chainsaws and wood chippers.

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT:** California Department of Parks & Recreation

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** San Luis Obispo Coast

**EXEMPT STATUS** ☒ Categorical Exemption Class: 1, 4, 31 Sections: 15301, 15304, 15331

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:**

This project consists of the repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of public facilities involving no expansion of use beyond current levels; minor public alteration in the condition of land and/or vegetation which does not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees, and the maintenance, restoration, and preservation of historical resources, in a manner consistent with the *Secretary of Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitation, Restoring, and reconstructing Historic Buildings* (1995), Weeks and Grimmer.

**CONTACT:** Doug Barker, District Environmental Coordinator  
San Luis Obispo Coast District

**TELEPHONE:** (805)927-2119  
**EMAIL:** [Doug.Barker@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Doug.Barker@parks.ca.gov)

  
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**Nicholas Franco, District Superintendent**

**DATE** 12/18/14